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1. (currently amended) In a database system wherein a group
of users have access to create and edit a plurality of
documents stored in the database, a system for periodically
clearing the database of stored document replication
conflicts comprising:

    means for designating one document in each pair of a
plurality of at least one stored pairs of replication
conflicting documents as the main document and the other of
said pair as the secondary document;

    means for storing all documents involved in each of
said at least one plurality of said pairs of replication
conflicting documents;

    means for defining a prioritized sequence of predeter-
mined attribute values to be applied to distinguish between
the stored documents in each of said pairs of replication
conflicting documents; and

    means for automatically periodically applying at
predetermined time intervals said sequence of predetermined
attribute values to each of said pairs of said plurality of
replication conflicting documents to resolve each conflict
by eliminating all but one of the documents in said conflict
a pair of conflicting documents for insufficient value of a
predetermined attribute in said applied sequence of
attributes.

Claims 2-4 are cancelled.

5. (currently amended) The database system of claim 3 1
wherein one of said sequence of attribute values to be
applied is that only one of said pair of conflicting
documents has been modified after one of said pair has been
designated as the main document to thereby eliminate said
unmodified document of said pair.

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6. (currently amended) The database system of claim 3 1 wherein one of said sequence of attribute values to be applied is that only one of said pair of conflicting documents has associated entered comments to thereby eliminate the document of said pair without associated comments.

7. (currently amended) The database system of claim 3 1 wherein one of said sequence of attribute values to be applied is that only one of said pair of conflicting documents has an associated date to thereby eliminate the document of said pair without an associated date.

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8. (currently amended) In a method of creating and editing a plurality of documents by a group of users having access to said documents stored in a database, a method for periodically clearing the database of stored document replication conflicts comprising:

designating one document ~~of~~ in each of a plurality of said stored pairs of replication conflicting documents as the main document and the other of said pair as the secondary document;

storing all documents involved in each of said plurality of pairs of replication conflicting documents;

defining a prioritized sequence of predetermined attribute values to be applied to distinguish between the stored documents in each of said pairs of replication conflicting documents; and

periodically automatically applying said sequence of predetermined attribute values at predetermined time intervals to each of said pairs of said plurality of replication conflicting documents to resolve each conflict by eliminating ~~all but~~ one of the documents in said conflict for insufficient value of a predetermined attribute in said applied sequence of attributes.

Claims 9-11 (cancelled)

12. (currently amended) The method of claim 8 ~~10~~ wherein one of said sequence of attribute values to be applied is that only one of said pair of conflicting documents has been modified after one of said pair has been designated as the main document to thereby eliminate said unmodified document of said pair.

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13. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~10~~ 8 wherein one of said sequence of attribute values to be applied is that associated comments have been entered for only one of said pair of conflicting documents to thereby eliminate the document of said pair for without associated entered comments.

14. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~10~~ 8 wherein one of said sequence of attribute values to be applied is that only one of said pair of conflicting documents has an associated date to thereby eliminate the document of said pair without an associated date.

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15. (currently amended) A computer program having code recorded on a computer readable medium for periodically clearing stored document replication conflicts in a database system wherein a group of users have access to create and edit a plurality of documents stored in said database, said program comprising:

    means for designating one document in each pair of a plurality of at least one stored pairs of replication conflicting documents as the main document and the other of said pair as the secondary document;

    means for storing all documents involved in each of said at least one plurality of said pairs of replication conflicting documents;

    means for defining a prioritized sequence of predetermined attribute values to be applied to distinguish between the stored documents in each of said pairs of replication conflicting documents; and

    means for automatically periodically applying at predetermined time intervals said sequence of predetermined attribute values to each of said pairs of said plurality of replication conflicting documents to resolve each conflict by eliminating all but one of the documents in said conflict a pair of conflicting documents for insufficient value of a predetermined attribute in said applied sequence of attributes.

Claims 16-18 (cancelled).

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19. (currently amended) The computer program of claim ~~17~~ 15
wherein one of said sequence of attribute values to be
applied is that only one of said pair of documents has been
modified after one of said pair has been designated as the
main document to thereby eliminate said unmodified document
of said pair.

20. (currently amended) The computer program of claim ~~17~~ 15
wherein one of said sequence of attribute values to be
applied is that only one of said pair of <u>conflicting</u>
documents has associated entered comments to thereby
eliminate the document of said pair without associated
comments.

21. (currently amended) The computer program of claim ~~17~~ 15
wherein one of said sequence of attribute values to be
applied is that only one of said pair of <u>conflicting</u>
documents has an associated date to thereby eliminate the
document of said pair without an associated date.